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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from the Letzlinger Heath Area

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 17 November to 7 December 1953

25X1

DATE PREPARED 13 January 1954REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

1. On 27 November 1953, the barracks installations in Hillersleben quartered an estimated 4,500 men. On 19 November, soldiers practiced firing with rifles and submachine guns in the area of the barracks installation at the western exit of the city. [REDACTED] On 17 November, four JS-III tanks and two T-34 tanks left the barracks installation at the eastern exit of the city and proceeded toward the target range for record firing. On 21 and 26 November, officers practiced firing with rifles and submachine guns at the revetments north of the barracks installation. On 23 November, soldiers drilled with four 57-mm AT guns. 1

2. At about 1:45 p.m. on 20 November, five flatcars carrying five 37-mm AA guns and three boxcars carrying enlisted men arrived from the direction of Haldensleben and were unloaded at the Hillersleben railroad station. [REDACTED] On 27 November, eight empty boxcars were observed passing through the Hillersleben railroad station toward Haldensleben.

3. On 3 November, a train carrying [REDACTED] one T-34 chassis and including one boxcar passed through Haldensleben toward Magdeburg from the direction of Hillersleben. At 10 a.m. on 15 November, a train carrying two JS-III tanks and including four boxcars, including one occupied by enlisted men, also passed through Haldensleben toward Magdeburg from the direction of Hillersleben. At about 11 a.m. on 3 December, two officers and 24 men wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets arrived at the Haldensleben railroad station and subsequently left toward the Born forest camp. 2

4. On 7 December, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne in Gardelegen was occupied below capacity. Sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets guarded the installation. [REDACTED]

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

5. On 7 December, the ~~vehicle~~^{repair} ~~station~~ ^{center}, which was guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets, was occupied to capacity. On 23 November, about 10 men left the barracks installation for the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. [redacted]

1. [redacted] Comment. The two barracks installations apparently were still occupied as previously in late November. [redacted] The information on weapons in the barracks installation at the eastern exit [redacted] to a certain extent confirms the 64th Gds Mecc Regt and the 19th Gds Hvy Tank Bn Regt of the 19th Gds Mecc Div assured [redacted] quartered in this installation.

2. [redacted] Comment. On 3 and 15 November, tanks in need of repair of the 19th Gds Mecc Div were apparently shipped to Magdeburg. On 20 November, guns and soldiers of the 5903th Gds AAA Regt (US) of the division were possibly unloaded and detained. On 3 December, the guard detail of the division in the Bore summer camp was presumably relieved.

3. [redacted] Comment. Except for the occupation of the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, which presumably rotated personnel of the 598th Pz Rifle Regt of the 207th Mts Rifle Div for guard duty on the zonal border, the two [redacted] installations are apparently occupied as previously. [redacted] The 840th Indep Engr Bn of the 17XXth Mts Rifle Corps, which was not located again after the fall of 1953, may be quartered in the remote training center.

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